



November 2008



Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship

A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Nov. 2 FRANCES ROBB: "The Depression Era and the Farm Security Administration"

Ms. Robb's talk on photographs made in Alabama during the Great Depression features images taken by photographers working for the Farm Security Administration. These photographs were remarkably effective in securing federal relief projects by showing the poverty and needs of the American land and its people at a time of national financial and social crisis. Three Alabama-made photographs are among the top ten most popular images made by the GSA during the Depression years. These photographs are among the most powerful and striking images taken in Alabama and have shaped outsiders' views of Alabama, for better and for worse.

Introduction: Mary Van Antwerp

Nov. 9 BUD GARDNER: "Green Driving: Rules, Cars and Fuels"

Let's take better care of earth's resources and reduce air pollution. Reduce your fuel consumption as much as 20% without changing cars or driving less. Learn the Top Seven Rules of driving efficiency and which new technologies and alternative fuels hold promise.

Introduction: Jonathan Leff

Nov. 16 KEN SIZEMORE: "For the Love of the Earth"

"The Old Folkie" will again fill our Fellowship with singing as he gives a presentation of songs celebrating the earth, nature, and the passing of the seasons. It includes songs of the simple but profound pleasures to be found on our home planet, as well as a few "laments" at the thoughtlessness and indifference we humans have displayed towards her.

Introduction: Ruth Geraci

Nov. 23 DR. GEORGE WASELKOV: "Archeological and Historical Insights into the Creek Indians and Their Cosmos"

Based on his training and experience as an archeologist, Dr. Waselkov will describe what can be inferred from the Creek Indian mounds and pottery. He feels the pottery also provides clues to the religious beliefs of the Creeks about the Cosmos.

Introduction: Frank Laraway

Nov. 30 REV. ELAINE BUKER: "One Noble Cause"

Retired United Methodist minister Elaine Buker will provide a portrayal of Dr. Anna Howard Shaw – a hugely influential but forgotten leader of the women's movement in the early 20th Century. Dressed for the part, Elaine will share excerpts from Dr. Shaw's reflections on "what women really know about war" and other stirring subjects. She will leave listeners with better understanding of the early days of the suffragette movement.

Introduction: Mary Ellen Hoffman

Everyone is invited to attend the Last Sunday of the Month potluck following the November 30 program. Please bring a dish to share and join us for fellowship and conversation.

PROPOSED BUDGET

As Approved by the FUF Board of Directors

2009

INFLOW

COLLECTIONS & MEMORIAL GIFTS	\$42,000.00
BUILDING USAGE	\$500.00
CONCERTS(NET)	\$500.00
YARD SALES(NET)	\$2,000.00
TOTAL BUDGETED INFLOWS	\$45,000.00

OUTGO

BUILDING

FSTC Lease	\$1,270.00
Grounds	\$4,750.00
Insurance	\$6,900.00
Janitorial Services	\$5,950.00
Maintainence	\$5,000.00
Utilities	\$6,600.00
BUILDING TOTAL	\$30,470.00

COMMITTEES

Admin/Office	\$550.00
Art	\$600.00
Care & Concerns	\$200.00
Education	\$2,800.00
Green Sanctuary	\$0*
Hospitality	\$0.00
Membership	\$50.00
Music	\$3,000.00
Newsletter(inc Sunday bulletins)	\$1,480.00
Programs	\$2,600.00
Publicity	\$450.00
Social Action	\$0*
COMMITTEE TOTAL	\$11,730.00

DONATIONS

UUA National	\$1,200.00
Mid-South Region	\$600.00
Local/Other Donations	\$1,000.00
DONATIONS TOTAL	\$2,800.00

**TOTAL BUDGETED
EXPENDITURES**

\$45,000.00

SEPTEMBER 2008 BUDGET REPORT

	Sept	YTD Thru 9/30	Budgeted Thru 9/30	Overage/ (Deficit)
RECEIPTS				
Contributions (unrestricted)	2,703	27,880	30,000	(2,120)
Contributions (special funds)	1,150	2,150		2,150
Other receipts	25	2,249	4,500	(2,251)
TOTAL RECEIPTS	3,878	32,279	34,500	(2,221)
EXPENDITURES				
Building	1,728	17,917	18,975	1,058
Committees	494	6,501	10,650	4,149
Donations	723	3,164	4,875	1,711
Special Projects		7,584		(7,584)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	2,945	35,166	34,500	(666)
NET INFLOW/(OUTFLOW)	933	(2,887)	0	(2,887)

- Submitted by Kay Seymour



SUNDAY CHILDREN'S FELLOWSHIP BEGINS

The Fellowship is pleased to welcome our new member Ray Ables, who is leading our children's fellowship each Sunday from 11-noon. We hope to rebuild our children's program and attract more young families to our Fellowship.

Ray currently teaches Spanish, Music and Social Studies at the Marietta Johnson Organic School in Fairhope, and discovered Unitarian Universalism seven years ago. He believes that one of the most important religious or spiritual principles is tolerance of alternative viewpoints. Children should learn about the variety of religions, so that they may make informed decisions as they mature and develop their own belief systems, he states. World religions, ethical behavior, and acceptance of others will be stressed in his Sunday programs for children. He will, for example, be sharing stories including the following themes:

- Being smart can be better than being big.*
- Don't go looking for trouble because you might find it.*
- We each have our own way of doing things,*

-Be considerate of others.

-A person's word is only as good as the person.

Ray was born in Ecuador, and lived there for ten years after which he moved to Argentina for six years. He has lived in Alabama for fifteen years, and also spent two years in Illinois, two years in Arizona, and a year in New Mexico. He has worked as a professional translator of Spanish dialects. An artist as well, Ray has shown his work in galleries out west and has worked with the well-known local artist Nall both here and in France.

Ray's two daughters, Linda, age 5, and Bresa, age 7, are happy to have their dad as their teacher both at the Organic School and at the Fellowship. Ray says he is excited to be offering a Unitarian curriculum that includes music, art, personal values, and world religions.

Families with children ages 3 to 12 are welcome to visit the Fellowship, bring their children to the Religious Education classroom at 10:50, and attend the Sunday service.

PLEASE PASS THE WORD!

IMPORTANT DATE FOR ALL MEMBERS & FRIENDS

The annual meeting of the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship will be Sunday, December 7 at 11 a.m. The presence of all Members is requested for this meeting; Friends are encouraged to attend as well, but may not participate in votes.

At this meeting, new officers for the Board of Directors will be elected. Anyone wishing to run for office must notify the nominating committee by November 23 (details available in the next column).

The proposed 2009 budget is included in this newsletter so that Members have a chance to review it. To provide time for discussion of the 2009 budget, committee annual reports will be published in the December newsletter, eliminating the need for oral presentations that day.

– Submitted by Ruth Geraci

MOVE OVER NETFLIX...

...there's a new kid in town– **UUFlix**.

Beginning November 2 the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship will offer members and friends award-winning films on DVD for weekly checkout– \$1/1 week, with all proceeds going to the Fellowship. Films may be checked out or returned during the coffee hour, beginning November 2 and each Sunday thereafter. Initial offerings will include such fine films as *Hotel Rwanda*, *Crash* and *Sicko*.

UUFlix offers terrific film viewing bargains– and what better way to divert worry over that plummeting 401K while supporting a good cause as well.

– Submitted by Juanie Noland

SLATE OF OFFICERS PROPOSED FOR 2008

The Fellowship's nominating committee has proposed the following slate of officers for 2009:

President: Robin Fabel
 Chairman of the Board: Michael Patrick
 Vice President: Jack Gooding
 Vice President in charge of Programs: Katherine Thompson
 Treasurer: Kay Seymour
 Recording Secretary: Pam Perkins
 Corresponding Secretary: Jill Teumer

According to the By-Laws of the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship, **“election of officers shall be conducted during the annual business meeting of the Fellowship, the report of the nominating committee having been made at least two weeks prior thereto. Nominations for any office may be made from the floor at the time of the election, however, intent to do so and consent of those to be nominated shall be made known to the presiding officer at least one week prior to the election so that a secret ballot may be arranged for positions for which two or more persons shall have been nominated.”** *Article VII Section 4*

Anyone interested in making a nomination is required to contact Fellowship President Ruth Geraci, Diane Ehlers or Helen Earl, members of the nominating committee, no later than November 23.

The Annual Meeting of the Fellowship will be held Sunday, December 7, at 11a.m.



YOUR FELLOWSHIP BOARD AT WORK

During the fall, the Fellowship Board of Directors has met several times. The following are highlights of these meetings:

There is currently a shortfall of budgeted receipts vs. the budgeted amounts for this fiscal year. Summary information on our financial status will be printed in upcoming newsletters. On the plus side, it was noted that our expenditures for utilities were down somewhat, a credit to the efforts of our members using the facility to monitor light and thermostat settings.

The Board discussed ways of increasing our incoming receipts, in light of anticipated shortfalls in 2009. The fundraising committee will be reactivated to initiate ideas.

The Budget Committee presented its proposal for 2009, which includes expected increases in building expenses, to be offset by a proposed decrease in committee expenditures. This budget proposal, approved by the Board for consideration by the FUF membership, will be printed in the November newsletter. It will then be discussed and voted upon for adoption or amendment at the annual membership meeting Dec. 7.

Building usage was discussed. Terry Lindquist has volunteered to be Building Usage Manager. Any group wishing to use the Fellowship building must contact Terry for permission, scheduling and to file a usage agreement. The FUF Building Usage Policy has been revised and updated to reflect what the Board has learned about renting our facilities, including insurance requirements. This document is available from the Building Usage Manager.

To improve security, the Board voted to change the lock on the front door, with new keys available from Pam Perkins as needed. It was also decided to change the combination lock on the kitchen door, and to give out that combination only on an as-needed basis to be determined by Pam. Those with the combination or a key will be cautioned to maintain building security by not sharing either.

Representing the Religious Education Committee, Michael Patrick reported in September that a teacher had applied for the position with our Children's Fellowship. Based on his credentials and an interview, Ray Ables was hired to begin offering a Sunday morning Unitarian program for children ages 3-12 on a trial basis for the rest of 2008, with hopes that he will be able to rebuild the program and draw in families with children to our Fellowship. Money has been included in the proposed 2009 budget, to be used only if the children's program is successfully re-established. The Board approved a recommendation to ask for special donations to purchase a much-needed new computer system for the Fellowship. Thanks to the generosity of several Fellowship members and friends, the new system, replacing the dinosaur that was our computer, will be in place and operational by the first of November. No regular budget money was used for this project.

COME DANCE WITH US!

The Fellowship will host another Contra Dance on Saturday, November 15, 6:30-9:30p.m. Instruction for basic contra dancing will be provided during first half hour, 6:30-7 p.m. No previous experience is needed and you can come with a friend, solo or just to enjoy the music and fun.

In Contra Dancing the caller guides participants through a variety of dances, teaching each one before it is actually done to the music. Most dances consist of just a few simple repeated moves such as do-si-do and promenade.

The caller for this event will be Bill Donahue of Pensacola who has been calling dances for 50 years. Admission for the evening will be \$5 per person, payable at the door.

Bring a friend, bring your neighbor, come on down, and swing your partner!

- Submitted by Ruth Geraci

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

THREE UPCOMING HOLIDAY PROJECTS

Following the Social Action presentation, The Ways of Wise Giving on Sept. 28, committee members sat down to the humbling task of establishing stringent priorities for Fellowship giving, especially given the present national and world economies. The decision whittled down to places of need close to home where we can better experience the benefits of our gifts. Even though we have a balance in our budget that would allow us to give more, we decided we must be frugal in preparation for lean days ahead when our very building will call for upkeep and repairs. Therefore, in part, we're giving back – to FUF. Our recommendations go the Board for their Nov. 7 meeting and the results will be available to you in the next Newsletter. Because this is OUR money, we ask for involvement of Fellowship members to consider the giving of involvement which is often worth more than money. That is why we changed our Mission Statement to: The Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship Social Action Committee will encourage involvement of Fellowship members in both volunteer opportunities and social service projects in line with guiding principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), and will make recommendations to the Fellowship Board of organizations to be supported financially. From time to time through the next year, we will make recommendations to you, as individuals (not just to the Board) to take action on a project. Such joint activity would bring us the satisfaction of increased closeness, not to mention the fun of it.

RIGHT NOW, we have the holidays to plan for which means three activities:

- 1) Food donations to be provided Ecumenical Ministries, starting Sun., Nov. 2. There is a 'treasure box' in the foyer, located to the right of the auditorium door. EMI has consistently requested the most eagerly sought foods, including pastas and sauces, peanut butter & jelly, mac & cheese. Paper products are always needed as will be holiday goodies. In response to those who'd prefer to give more nutritious food, we ask of you, each member, to write down a favorite, easily prepared recipe (using inexpensive, easy-to-buy ingredients) so that we can combine these into a pamphlet of recipes for EMI use. (This is our first official member involvement request!!)
- 2) Our annual Guest at Your Table initiative, supporting Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) outreach to world causes – will begin Sunday, November 23, just before Thanksgiving. Guest at Your Table is not a literal guest, but the guest you could imagine hosting with the generosity one always feels toward someone close at hand. There is so much need in the world and we can feel so insufficient to help, but by personalizing in giving to an invisible friend, we can experience that friend's relief – and joy! Again, we will have the giving boxes, into which you can deposit loose change at the end of each day and watch it grow through November and December. (More later on the details of how this money is spent.) SAC is incorporating our world giving into this well-planned project so that we do not draw from FUF funds that will be needed in the next year (more later on the details). Guest at Your Table boxes will be collected at a Sunday meeting early in 2009.
- 3) Christmas Card sale, to start as soon as we receive cards from UUSC. These cards, from original designs, were well-liked and reasonable in price last year. So, if you need cards, wait buy any until you see what we'll have to offer.

– Submitted by Ann Chapman

FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE

FINE DINING IN MEMBERS' HOMES

Do you look forward with great anticipation to an extraordinarily delicious meal? Do you relish the pleasure of spending an evening in the company of interesting folks? Are you exceptionally curious about the interior of some of the unique homes in our town? Are you keen to support the budget of Fairhope Unitarian?

If you answered yes, then you're invited to participate in the Fine Dining Fundraiser to be held in the first quarter of 2009. For \$25 per person, you can have a seat at the tables of our volunteer hosts from the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship for fantastic food, for fun, and, best of all, to add to the Fellowship operations fund.

Here are some of the highlights:

- If you haven't been treated to Pinky Bass' authentic Mexican food, you've missed an amazing experience.
- If dining by candlelight at the villa of Rose Marie Morgan and Forrest Worrall sounds like fun, stay tuned.
- Sarah Katz may serve Warren's favorite meal of meatloaf and the trimmings.
- If you prefer freshly caught and cooked seafood, you'll want to test Carl Geraci's famous fish.
- Carolyn Garbetts' made-from-scratch cakes are to die for.
- Edith Hinrichs is planning a Russian-Jewish dinner.
- What will Wilma and Henry Albers serve?
- I will offer my Spicy Indian Chicken.

Save your dining out money for these very special treats. Times, places and menu details will be available soon. Tickets will go on sale at \$25 per person in early January, and will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Initial sales will be limited to one ticket for each Member and Friend. Remaining tickets, if available, will be offered to your guests or outside partakers.

Please call 928-6526 if you, too, would like to host a dinner.

- Submitted by Celeste Hinds

KNITTER'S GROUP UPDATE

The group is happy to report that due to their combined efforts 56 recently completed items are ready to be shipped to an orphanage in Afghanistan. The items consist of 6 vests, 2 jackets, 33 hats, 7 pairs of socks, and 8 sets of mittens to help keep the children warm during the harsh Afghan winter.

- Submitted by Pat Smith

Author's Book Group

The group has selected the following authors for the next two months:

Nov. 13: Michelle Redmond, led by Pam Perkins
Dec. 11: Reader's Choice, bring an author you'd like to share and suggest future discussions.

The group meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 930am at the FUF. New members are always welcome.

-Submitted by Diane Ehlers



“THE EYES OF CHILDREN” ART EXHIBIT FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

Proud parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles:



you're all invited to submit works done by children under the age of eighteen for the next art exhibit to be held at the fellowship. If the child has since grown up, but was a child when the work was done, we'd love to have it in the show!

All types of art are welcome... painting, drawing, collage, sculpture, photography, video... but the art on paper or canvas must be framed and ready to hang, videos ready to play, or sculpture ready to be placed on a pedestal.

We are asking that you bring the art to the fellowship before noon on Friday, November 7th. You may bring the work earlier if you are coming to the fellowship on Sunday, November 2nd or for a weekday activity. Please put it in the adult classroom, with your name, the child's name and age at the time the work was done, and a title, if any.

The reception will be held on Saturday, November 8th, from 3 to 5 pm, for all members, friends, and the public, as well as the creators of the artworks. As always, delectable refreshments will be served.

Please participate in this show! We like to have exhibits which involve our members. The fellowship belongs to all of us! Any questions can be asked of Jean Lawrence or Pinky Bass.

– Submitted by Jean Lawrence

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sat., Nov. 1: Documentary Movie: The Right to Count, 7pm

Sun., Nov. 2: Special Movie It Happened One Night, 4pm

Tue., Nov. 4: Knitters' Group, 130-330pm

Tue., Nov. 4: Choir rehearsal 330pm

Wed., Nov. 5: Back Porch Folk Singers, 3-430pm

Thu., Nov. 6: Nonfiction Book Group, 930am

Sat., Nov. 8: Game Night 630-9pm

Tue., Nov. 11: Knitters' Group, 130-330pm

Tue., Nov. 11: Choir rehearsal 330pm

Wed., Nov. 12: Back Porch Folk Singers, 3-430pm

Thu., Nov. 13: Authors Discussion Group, 930am

Sat., Nov. 15: Contra Dance 630-930pm

Tue., Nov. 18: Knitters' Group, 130-330pm

Tue., Nov. 18: Choir rehearsal 330pm

Wed., Nov. 19: Back Porch Folk Singers, 3-430pm

Thu., Nov. 20: Nonfiction Book Group, 930am

Sat., Nov. 22: Game Night 630-9pm

Sun., Nov. 23: December newsletter deadline

Tue., Nov. 25: Knitters' Group, 130-330pm

Tue., Nov. 25: Choir rehearsal 330pm

Wed., Nov. 26: Back Porch Folk Singers, 3-430pm

Sat., Nov. 29: Game Night 630-9pm

Sun., Nov. 30: Last Sunday Potluck 12pm

DEPRESSION ERA MOVIE

The Sunday morning program on Nov. 2 will be Frances Robb's talk on photographs made in Alabama during the Great Depression. That afternoon at 4 p.m. she will introduce a Depression Era movie for us to view: *It Happened One Night*. This 1934 comedy was directed by Frank Capra and stars Claudette Colbert and Clark Gable.

Admission to the movie is free, but of course contributions will be accepted for the Fellowship

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE

The editor's goal is to have the newsletter ready for distribution on the last Sunday of the month barring unforeseen circumstances. In order to meet this goal all items must be submitted with complete information and received no later than the next to last Sunday of the month. To avoid confusion, the monthly deadline date will now appear in the monthly Mark Your Calendar section. Members and Friends are invited to submit poems, quotations or other brief words of wisdom to be published in the newsletter as space allows.

Provide written copy or email to editor at: nanpie@juno.com

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